

bracula are generally aborted on alternate rows ; but in such cases the external cells are protected by the development of the denticles into conspicuous spines.

The variety of *Electra* usually described and figured consists simply of the disposition of the cells over the cylindrical branches of some sea-weed, and not, as has been stated by one author, "around an ideal centre."

According to Lamouroux, the polypidom in a living state is of "a red-violet colour ; but when exposed to air and light, it becomes an earthy white." The polypes are probably the same as in *Membranipora*.

Electra appears to be widely distributed ; for it is said to be common in the European Seas, and I believe Prof. Busk has received it from the Cape of Good Hope.

5. ON THE REPRODUCTION OF NEMERTES BORLASSII. BY WILLIAM BEATTIE, HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE MON-ROSE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (IN A NOTE TO DR. GRAY, V.P.Z.S.)

"On the last week in February, Commander Lysaght, of the Coast Guard, brought me from one of the fishermen on the coast a very long specimen of *Lineus longissimus* (*Nemertes Borlassii*) ; after keeping the animal alive four days, it produced a young one 18 inches long and about $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of a line or $\frac{1}{18}$ th of an inch in diameter, of a cream-colour. Both lived for nearly a week ; but in consequence of my illness the water was not changed, and the little creature died and was considerably decomposed before I knew. I have the remains in spirits. At first we fancied it must be an intestinal worm ; but its habits were the same as the supposed parent."

Dr. Baird has examined the specimen produced by the *Nemertes*. It is not in a good state ; but he is satisfied that it is not an *Ascaris* or *Filaria*, and thinks it very probably the true young of the *Nemertes*.

6. ON THE FAMILIES OF ASPERGILLIDÆ, GASTROCHÆNIDÆ, AND HUMPHREYIADÆ. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC., ETC.

In the 'Synopsis of the British Museum' I referred *Aspergillum*, *Clavagella* and *Gastrochæna* to the same family, under the name of *Gastrochænidæ*. A further study of the œconomy of the animal and the development of the shells have induced me to divide them into two families, and to add to them a third, founded on a recently discovered Mollusca brought by Mr. Strange from Australia, which differs from the other two in habits and œconomy.